Table 1-6. Sex of graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in science, engineering, and health: 1977–2025

(Number and percent)

Year	Graduate students					Postdoctoral appointees					Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers				
	Total	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1977	345,374	100,450	29.1	244,924	70.9	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1978	339,912	NA	NA	NA	NA	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
1979	357,578	116,739	32.6	240,839	67.4	18,101	3,340	18.5	14,761	81.5	2,687	611	22.7	2,076	77.3
1980	367,078	124,122	33.8	242,956	66.2	18,399	3,543	19.3	14,856	80.7	3,260	689	21.1	2,571	78.9
1981	375,130	131,572	35.1	243,558	64.9	19,634	4,080	20.8	15,554	79.2	3,559	750	21.1	2,809	78.9
1982	382,291	135,993	35.6	246,298	64.4	19,363	4,371	22.6	14,992	77.4	4,026	843	20.9	3,183	79.1
1983	390,432	139,504	35.7	250,928	64.3	20,712	4,793	23.1	15,919	76.9	4,896	981	20.0	3,915	80.0
1984	394,670	142,017	36.0	252,653	64.0	21,535	5,041	23.4	16,494	76.6	5,042	1,146	22.7	3,896	77.3
1985	404,021	145,805	36.1	258,216	63.9	22,387	5,414	24.2	16,973	75.8	5,103	1,277	25.0	3,826	75.0
1986	415,520	150,787	36.3	264,733	63.7	23,721	5,980	25.2	17,741	74.8	4,846	1,260	26.0	3,586	74.0
1987	421,497	153,556	36.4	267,941	63.6	24,881	6,383	25.7	18,498	74.3	4,597	1,243	27.0	3,354	73.0
1988	424,523	159,133	37.5	265,390	62.5	26,123	6,802	26.0	19,321	74.0	4,869	1,266	26.0	3,603	74.0
1989	434,478	165,753	38.1	268,725	61.9	27,932	7,372	26.4	20,560	73.6	4,908	1,285	26.2	3,623	73.8
1990	452,113	176,441	39.0	275,672	61.0	29,565	7,993	27.0	21,572	73.0	5,255	1,376	26.2	3,879	73.8
1991	471,212	186,315	39.5	284,897	60.5	30,865	8,459	27.4	22,406	72.6	5,478	1,452	26.5	4,026	73.5
1992	493,522	199,300	40.4	294,222	59.6	32,747	9,297	28.4	23,450	71.6	5,482	1,446	26.4	4,036	73.6
1993	504,304	209,828	41.6	294,476	58.4	34,322	9,941	29.0	24,381	71.0	6,001	1,625	27.1	4,376	72.9
1994	504,399	216,044	42.8	288,355	57.2	36,377	10,906	30.0	25,471	70.0	6,209	1,722	27.7	4,487	72.3
1995	499,640	220,335	44.1	279,305	55.9	35,926	10,902	30.3	25,024	69.7	6,534	1,749	26.8	4,785	73.2
1996	494,079	222,419	45.0	271,660	55.0	37,107	11,266	30.4	25,841	69.6	6,604	1,912	29.0	4,692	71.0
1997	487,208	222,711	45.7	264,497	54.3	38,481	11,975	31.1	26,506	68.9	6,722	1,989	29.6	4,733	70.4
1998	485,627	224,608	46.3	261,019	53.7	40,086	12,837	32.0	27,249	68.0	7,100	2,115	29.8	4,985	70.2
1999	493,256	230,581	46.7	262,675	53.3	40,800	12,969	31.8	27,831	68.2	7,573	2,329	30.8	5,244	69.2
2000	493,311	231,202	46.9	262,109	53.1	43,115	13,509	31.3	29,606	68.7	7,879	2,386	30.3	5,493	69.7
2001	509,607	238,452	46.8	271,155	53.2	43,311	14,001	32.3	29,310	67.7	7,531	2,490	33.1	5,041	66.9
2002	540,404	253,345	46.9	287,059	53.1	45,034	15,184	33.7	29,850	66.3	7,906	2,577	32.6	5,329	67.4
2003	567,121	268,439	47.3	298,682	52.7	46,728	16,036	34.3	30,692	65.7	8,473	2,773	32.7	5,700	67.3
2004	574,463	277,749	48.3	296,714	51.7	47,240	16,373	34.7	30,867	65.3	9,075	3,026	33.3	6,049	66.7
2005	582,226	286,935	49.3	295,291	50.7	48,555	17,040	35.1	31,515	64.9	9,527	3,222	33.8	6,305	66.2
2006	597,643	297,825	49.8	299,818	50.2	49,343	17,583	35.6	31,760	64.4	10,814	3,624	33.5	7,190	66.5
2007old[a]	607,823	299,671	49.3	308,152	50.7	50,712	17,852	35.2	32,860	64.8	10,736	3,676	34.2	7,060	65.8
2007new[a]	619,499	307,490	49.6	312,009	50.4	50,840	17,898	35.2	32,942	64.8	10,752	3,687	34.3	7,065	65.7
2008	631,489	311,179	49.3	320,310	50.7	54,164	20,221	37.3	33,943	62.7	13,747	5,080	37.0	8,667	63.0
2009	631,645	303,120	48.0	328,525	52.0	57,805	21,818	37.7	35,987	62.3	14,059	5,264	37.4	8,795	62.6
2010[b,c]	632,652	297,171	47.0	335,481	53.0	63,439	24,570	38.7	38,869	61.3	21,345	8,418	39.4	12,927	60.6

Table 1-6. Sex of graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in science, engineering, and health: 1977–2025

(Number and percent)

Year	Graduate students					Postdoctoral appointees					Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers				
	Total	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2011[c]	626,820	291,550	46.5	335,270	53.5	62,639	24,472	39.1	38,167	60.9	21,498	8,393	39.0	13,105	61.0
2012	627,243	291,056	46.4	336,187	53.6	62,851	24,685	39.3	38,166	60.7	21,908	8,658	39.5	13,250	60.5
2013	633,010	291,380	46.0	341,630	54.0	61,942	24,357	39.3	37,585	60.7	22,465	8,848	39.4	13,617	60.6
2014old[d]	650,738	294,727	45.3	356,011	54.7	62,379	24,627	39.5	37,752	60.5	23,290	9,191	39.5	14,099	60.5
2014new[d]	666,586	300,745	45.1	365,841	54.9	63,593	25,102	39.5	38,491	60.5	23,706	9,392	39.6	14,314	60.4
2015	685,397	309,101	45.1	376,296	54.9	63,861	25,295	39.6	38,566	60.4	25,292	10,043	39.7	15,249	60.3
2016	684,825	309,256	45.2	375,569	54.8	64,712	25,594	39.6	39,118	60.4	25,747	10,310	40.0	15,437	60.0
2017old[e]	684,096	314,770	46.0	369,326	54.0	64,888	25,952	40.0	38,936	60.0	na	na	na	na	na
2017new[e]	649,112	292,665	45.1	356,447	54.9	64,733	25,863	40.0	38,870	60.0	28,180	11,600	41.2	16,580	58.8
2018	668,307	308,974	46.2	359,333	53.8	64,783	26,122	40.3	38,661	59.7	29,284	11,816	40.3	17,468	59.7
2019	690,117	325,122	47.1	364,995	52.9	66,247	27,074	40.9	39,173	59.1	30,349	12,369	40.8	17,980	59.2
2020	697,813	337,900	48.4	359,913	51.6	65,681	27,442	41.8	38,239	58.2	29,661	12,406	41.8	17,255	58.2
2021	760,156	372,879	49.1	387,277	50.9	63,328	26,808	42.3	36,520	57.7	30,548	12,918	42.3	17,630	57.7
2022	798,534	386,425	48.4	412,109	51.6	62,750	26,712	42.6	36,038	57.4	32,279	13,746	42.6	18,533	57.4
2023	818,095	395,774	48.4	422,321	51.6	65,850	28,392	43.1	37,458	56.9	34,342	14,847	43.2	19,495	56.8
2024	818,078	395,711	48.4	422,367	51.6	69,877	30,647	43.9	39,230	56.1	35,142	15,619	44.4	19,523	55.6
2025	796,304	391,622	49.2	404,682	50.8	68,324	30,296	44.3	38,028	55.7	36,021	16,219	45.0	19,802	55.0
Master's students															
2017new[e]	378,587	177,839	47.0	200,748	53.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2018	391,211	189,897	48.5	201,314	51.5	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2019	408,228	202,460	49.6	205,768	50.4	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2020	414,478	212,330	51.2	202,148	48.8	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2021	466,613	239,757	51.4	226,856	48.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2022	501,311	249,780	49.8	251,531	50.2	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2023	510,866	252,191	49.4	258,675	50.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2024	505,930	249,263	49.3	256,667	50.7	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2025	481,206	242,185	50.3	239,021	49.7	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Doctoral students															
2017new[e]	270,525	114,826	42.4	155,699	57.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2018	277,096	119,077	43.0	158,019	57.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2019	281,889	122,662	43.5	159,227	56.5	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2020	283,335	125,570	44.3	157,765	55.7	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2021	293,543	133,122	45.4	160,421	54.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2022	297,223	136,645	46.0	160,578	54.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2023	307,229	143,583	46.7	163,646	53.3	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

Table 1-6. Sex of graduate students, postdoctoral appointees, and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers in science, engineering, and health: 1977–2025

(Number and percent)

Year	Graduate students					Postdoctoral appointees					Doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers				
	Total	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2024	312,148	146,448	46.9	165,700	53.1	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
2025	315,098	149,437	47.4	165,661	52.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

na = not applicable; master's and doctoral students were not reported separately until 2017, and counts of postdoctoral appointees (postdocs) and doctorate-holding nonfaculty researchers (NFRs) were not collected until 1979. NA = not available; master's-granting institutions were not surveyed in 1978, and the survey of doctorate-granting institutions did not collect data by sex.

[a] In 2007, eligible fields were reclassified, newly eligible fields were added, and the survey was redesigned to improve coverage and coding of eligible units. "2007new" presents data as collected in 2007; "2007old" shows data as they would have been collected in prior years. See appendix A in https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf10307/ for more detail.

[b] In 2010, the postdoc and NFR section of the survey was expanded and significant effort was made to ensure that appropriate personnel were providing postdoc and NFR data. Thus, it is unclear how much of the increases in 2010 and later years over 2009 and prior years are from growth in postdocs and NFRs and how much are from improved data collection. More information on the changes to the data collection is available at https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf13334/.

[c] Postdoc and NFR data from 2010 and 2011 were reimputed following the 2012 data collection; these data supersede those contained in previous reports.

[d] In 2014, the survey frame was updated following a comprehensive frame evaluation study. The study identified potentially eligible but not previously surveyed academic institutions in the United States with master's- or doctorate-granting programs in science, engineering, and health. A total of 151 newly eligible institutions were added, and 2 private for-profit institutions offering mostly practitioner-based graduate degrees were determined to be ineligible. For more information, see https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/2016/nsf16314.

[e] As part of the 2017 Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering (GSS) redesign, the GSS taxonomy was changed to align with the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) Taxonomy of Disciplines, thus increasing comparability with other NCSES surveys. As a result, some eligible fields were reclassified and a small number of fields became fully or partially ineligible. Comparisons to prior years should use the 2017old estimates and should be limited to broad areas of study—detailed field comparisons are not recommended. Due to changes in reporting, NFR estimates for 2017old are not available.

Note(s):
Percentages may not add to total because of rounding. Graduate student data in this table include master's students in health sciences. For more information on the comparability of these counts to other NCSES published data, see the "Technical Notes."

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.